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AMBLE URBAN DISTRICT

1
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



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1969

1804/1805 1802/23

AMBLE URBAN DISTRICT

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1969

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1969

To the Chairman and Members of the Amble Urban District Council

Vital Statistics The estimated mid-year population showed a fall from 4,990 to 4,960 persons. There were 99 births compared with 51 deaths, an excess of 48 births, so that these totals assume an outward migration of 78 persons.

The pattern of births in the town is interesting and the numbers occurring over the past 18 years are given below.

	Male	Female	Total	Excess of Males
1952	38	33	71	5
1953	48	39	87	9
1954	54	33	87	21
1955	53	46	99	7
1956	48	33	81	15
1957	40	39	79	1
1958	49	39	88	10
1959	59	36	95	23
1960	60	40	100	20
1961	54	43	97	11
1962	57	71	128	-14
1963	60	41	101	19 Coquet
1964	65	64	129	1 Water
1965	54	45	99	9
1966	49	47	96	2
1967	53	49	102	4
1968	58	39	97	19
1969	50	49	99	1
	949	786	1735	

It will be seen that there is a considerable excess of male births but that this is less evident in the period after 1963. The sex ratio for births (the number of male births compared to the number of female births) for England and Wales is 106/100. With the fall in male infant mortality this has given rise nationally to an excess of males in all age groups up to 45 years.

In Amble the sex ratio of male/female births was 121/100 for the whole period 1952-1969. However, for the period 1952-1963 it was 126/100 and in the last six years 1964-1969 it fell to 112/100. The interesting point is that at the beginning of 1963 the town water supply was changed from local springs and boreholes to Coquet water. It has been suggested that the sex ratio may vary depending on the proportion of some mineral constituents of drinking water. However, the numbers in Amble are too small to be highly significant.

The birth rate is high and remains above the national average. There were two peak years in the early sixties but there is little evidence yet of a downward trend.

The death rate was just below that for England and Wales in 1969. Deaths from ischaemic heart disease were low, and all in persons aged over 65 years, but in 1968 the proportion of this cause of death had been high.

Immunisation The acceptance rates for primary immunisation of infants were slightly lower than in 1968 and cannot be considered altogether satisfactory. These rates are below the national ones. It is surprising that there should be a big drop in the proportion of infants vaccinated against poliomyelitis - 72% in 1968 but only 47% in 1969. This vaccine is easily given by mouth, causes no bodily disturbance, and offers almost certain protection. It is usually given at the same time as inoculation against diphtheria etc.

Infectious Diseases There were 14 notified cases of infective hepatitis during 1969, one case having occurred in December 1968 but in surrounding districts there had been many cases throughout the whole of 1968. The outbreak quickened in the early months of 1970 and at the time of writing there have been 34 cases this year but the last was in August 1970 and it may be that the epidemic is over.

Mussel Poisoning This was reported in detail in the 1968 report. Mussels on the coast were again affected with the plankton neurotoxin and warning notices remained up on the Coquet estuary. This appears to be a regular occurrence in the early summer months although it is probable that the high levels of toxicity of 1968 were unusual - maximum levels in 1969 and 1970 have been only one tenth of those reached during 1968. Routine testing continues to be undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food, and regular reports are received.

Sewage Disposal The agreement to build a combined scheme with Warkworth is sensible and welcome and will reduce capital and running costs to both authorities. The present old arrangements are highly unsatisfactory with the discharge of crude sewage inside the harbour.

Housing Shown in the report is the progress with housing over the past 5 years - 81 unfit houses closed or demolished, 66 private and 142 council houses built, and a further 111 houses improved. There remains one sizeable area of unfit houses in the block of 27 in Smith, Henderson, Leazes, and Newburgh Streets. The Council have made a Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of this and it is important that progress be made as rapidly as possible. Such areas quickly deteriorate as a result of disrepair and vandalism and become very unpleasant for the remaining inhabitants and those in neighbouring properties.

Ian G.P. Fraser

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district was 1,220 acres.

The number of inhabited houses was 1712 and the number of new houses completed during the year was 44.

The estimated mid-year population was 4,960 and this figure was taken when calculating the birth and death rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	49	46	95
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
Totals	<u>50</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>99</u>
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population			19.2
Crude Birth Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor (1.03)			19.8
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			4.0
<u>Stillbirths</u>			
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			10
Total live and still births			96
<u>Infant Deaths (Deaths under one year)</u>			
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			21
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			22
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			-
<u>Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u>			
Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births			21
<u>Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u>			
Deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births			21

Perinatal Mortality Rate

Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined 31
per 1,000 total live and still births

Maternal Mortality (Including abortion)

Number of Deaths -
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births -

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	22	29	51

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population 10.3
Crude Death Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor (1.03) 10.6

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	-	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm - Intestine	-	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	6	1	7
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	3	3
Other Malignant Neoplasms	3	2	5
Hypertensive Disease	-	1	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	4	6	10
Other Forms of Heart Disease	-	1	1
Cerebrovascular Disease	1	2	3
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	-	1	1
Influenza	1	-	1
Pneumonia	-	2	2
Bronchitis and Emphysema	1	2	3
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	1	1
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	1	2
All Other Accidents	2	1	3
Totals	<u>22</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>51</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES
NOTIFICATIONS

Measles	4
Dysentery	1
Infective Hepatitis	14

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

IMMUNISATION
NORTH NO. 2 AREA

Disease	Primary Immunisation			Reinforcing Doses		
	Under 4	4-15	Total	Under 4	4-15	Total
Diphtheria	273	8	281	200	359	559
Whooping Cough	272	8	280	122	188	210
Tetanus	273	17	290	202	425	627
Polio	203	5	208	185	349	534
Measles	190	109	299	-	-	-

	Primary Vaccination			Revaccination		
	Under 5	5-15	Total	Under 5	5-15	Total
Smallpox	267	15	282	4	18	22

There were 428 live births in the area during 1969 and the number of primary immunisations of children under 4 years of age (smallpox - under 5 years) have been expressed as percentages of this figure.

Diphtheria	-	64%
Whooping Cough	-	64%
Tetanus	-	64%
Polio	-	47%
Smallpox	-	62%

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

Alnwick U.D.	142
Alnwick R.D.	75
Amble U.D.	-
Rothbury R.D.	18
Totals	<u>235</u>

THE SURVEYOR'S & PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTSTAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	DR. IAN G.P. FRASER
SURVEYOR, PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR & HOUSING MANAGER	MR. J.A. RODGETT, M.A.P.H.I.
ASSISTANT SURVEYOR	MR. W. DIXON
CARAVAN SITES ATTENDANT	MR. W. MAVIN
CLERK/TYPIST	MISS L.M. FAIRBAIRN

Council Offices,
Amble.

To the Chairman and Members of the Amble Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1969 on the Health Conditions in the District.

The Report is mainly statistical with occasional comments. The health conditions of the District remain good, there being no major serious problems affecting the health of the population.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

J.A. RODGETT

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

HOUSINGSTATISTICS FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 1969

New Houses Completed during the year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	38	-	38
(b) By any other Housing Authority	-	-	-
(c) By private persons	-	6	6

Total number of inhabited houses in the District 1712

Total number of houses owned by the Local Authority 446

ACTION WITH REGARD TO UNFIT HOUSES

<u>Closing and Demolition</u>	<u>No. of Houses</u>
1. Houses demolished in Clearance Area	-
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Area	6
3. Houses closed and not demolished	4
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above	-
<u>Repairs</u>	
<u>Houses Made Fit</u>	
5. By informal action	-
6. By owners following statutory notice	-
7. By Local Authority in default of owners	-
8. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	-
<u>Houses Patched</u>	
9. Houses in clearance areas still in use at end of year for temporary accommodation	-
<u>Slum Clearance</u>	

The Council continued to deal with houses falling into the category of unfitness and 6 houses were demolished and 4 closed. As stated in last year's report there are not many houses left to be dealt with as being unfit, and those that are left are being dealt with individually. The Council during the year resolved to deal with the only area where there are a number of unfit houses together, that is in Smith Street, Henderson Street, Leazes Street and Newburgh Street, and it was resolved to deal with this as a Clearance Area. Many of these houses are already closed and some the Council has already purchased.

It is interesting to note that since 1963 81 houses have been closed or demolished, 66 new houses provided by private building, 142 houses by Council and 111 houses have been improved with a discretionary grant and 33 by Standard Grant. It may be said from this that 81 houses have been lost, 208 new houses provided and 111 houses have been given a longer improved life.

HOUSING

The remaining two old persons bungalows were completed during the year and 36 new 3 person bungalows built and occupied. The latter are to Parker Morris standard. The Council also set plans in motion to construct 119 Houses within the Urban District to rehouse the inhabitants of Radcliffe in the Rural District of Alnwick.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The District is satisfactorily sewered and the whole district, with the exception of one chemical closet on an outlying farm, is on the water carriage system.

In March the Council resolved with Alnwick R.D.C. to appoint Messrs. D. Balfour & Son to produce a scheme for a combined system of disposal by sea outfall and some work to this end was carried out during the year.

STREET CLEANSING

Two road sweepers were employed throughout the year. The Sweepers carry out other duties in addition to road sweeping with the result that they were unable to give an efficient sweeping to all roads in the district. The central area received daily attention but the outlying schemes were seldom swept.

Litter baskets are positioned throughout the central area and at the harbour and the roads to the caravan site, but there is still a proportion of the public who throw their litter onto the ground.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The three public conveniences are cleansed daily. The general public use the conveniences with care, but during the year there were a number of occasions when they were misused and acts of vandalism encountered. One set of conveniences is closed during the evening in an attempt to prevent vandalism.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are two registered slaughterhouses with the district, both of which comply with the provisions of the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations 1958 and equipped to slaughter animals under the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1961. There was no slaughtering carried out in one slaughterhouse after April.

SLAUGHTERMEN

12 Licences to slaughter or stun animals were issued during the year, one of which required the holder to be under supervision.

FOOD PREMISES

Inspection of food premises were made and several contraventions and deficiencies brought to the notice of the owner or person in charge. It was not found necessary to institute proceedings for any contravention of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958
as Amended by
Housing Act 1961, & 1969

<u>IMPROVEMENT GRANTS</u>	<u>No. of Separate Houses</u>	
Carried out by Local Authority under Section 9 Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958	-	
A. <u>DISCRETIONARY GRANTS</u>	<u>No. of Separate Houses</u>	
(1) Applications submitted to Local Authority during the year.		15
(2) Applications rejected		1
(3) Applications approved		14
(4) Approximate average grant per house		£ 456
(5) Total number of houses approved for grant in the area since the inception of the scheme.		279
B. <u>STANDARD GRANTS</u>	<u>During the Year</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
(1) Number of separate houses for which grants have been made.	2	35
(2) Number of houses so provided with:-		
(a) bath or shower	-	6
(b) wash hand basin	-	6
(c) hot water supply	-	5
(d) water closet	1	34
(e) food store	2	17
(f) Sink	1	1
(g) H. & C. water at a.or b.	1	1

A. DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

The number of applications (14) consisted of 3 tenanted properties and 11 owner/occupied properties.

The total properties improved now constitute 17% of all the properties within the District.

As there are still a number of substandard houses without baths or showers within the house, no hot water system and no inside toilet facilities and a few houses still without cold water supply or sink within the house it would be gratifying to see more owners of property availing themselves of the facilities of grant aid for improvements.

The following table gives figures of animals slaughtered during 1969 within the Urban District. All animals slaughtered were inspected.

	Steer	Heifers	Cows & Bulls	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Rams & Ewes	Pigs
Number Killed	252	-	1	1	808	-	-
Number Inspected	252	-	1	1	808	-	-
<u>All Diseases Except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>							
Whole Carcasses	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	57	-	-	-	10	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>							
Whole Carcase Condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>							
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The total amount of meat condemned amounted to 17 cwt. 0 lbs., the majority of which was liver affected by fluke and cirrhosis and abscess.

The nett costs of collection and disposal amounted to £6413 and can be summarised as follows :-

Population Estimate	Number of Weekly Collections		Method of Collection	Total Cost
	HOUSE	TRADE		
5000	1	2	One 10/12 Cu. Yd. Dual Tip Karrier Vehile	£6413

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL COSTS

APPROXIMATE

Total Cost	Number of Premises	Cost per Premises	Cost per head of Population	Rate (Pence)
£6413	1840	£3. 1. 7d.	£1. 5. 7d.	12.8d.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

All animals slaughtered within the District were inspected under the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963 and charges made, the maximum allowed to be charged under the Act were made.

Inspections were also made at Alnwick for Alnwick Urban District Council whilst the Inspector was on holiday. An arrangement is in operation between the Inspectors to stand in for each other during holidays.

27 visits were made to food shops for the inspection of unsound tinned and other food and a total weight of 3 cwts. 0 lbs. was condemned.

Ice Cream

There are no ice cream manufacturers in the district. 15 premises are registered for the storage of ice cream. All were inspected and found to be satisfactory and all are selling prepacked ice cream.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
1. Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	2	2	-	-
2. Factories not incl. in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	17	11	-	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	19	13	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M Inspector	by H.M Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-

There is one outworker within the Urban District.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

There were 60 premises on the register at the end of the year and all premises have received a general inspection. 10 inspections were made during the year. 3 contraventions found were remedied after verbal notice. One accident was reported under Section 48.

MILK AND DAIRIES

The licensing of retailers of Untreated, Sterilised and Pasteurised milk and the taking of samples is carried out by the County Health Inspector. There are six dealers' licences and one licence for the bottling of untreated milk. Samples were taken regularly throughout the year and all were satisfactory with the exception of one which failed the Methylene Blue test.

WATER SUPPLY

Water is supplied by the Coquet Water Board and the Council sell to the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company who are responsible for distribution. Eleven samples for bacteriological and chemical analysis were taken during the year, all of which were satisfactory.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

Inspections were made of the food premises and contraventions brought to the notice of the owner or person in charge. One shop re-opened as a food shop was brought up to standard by the Owner.

SCRAP DEALERS ACT 1964

Two dealers are registered under the Act.

PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS

During the year a total of 11 licences were issued after inspections of the premises, one of which was a new tank, two tanks were pressure tested, and all were found to be satisfactory. Once again the assistance and advice of the County Fire Prevention Officer was readily available and much appreciated.

RODENT CONTROL

Apart from inspections made by the staff complaints from both private and business premises are attended to. No charge is made by the Council for treatment, and the result is that infestations are kept under control. Treatments were regularly carried out on the Council tip.

The statistics on the following page as required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food show action taken during the 12 months ending December 1969.

Properties other than Sewers	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1) Number of properties in District	2064	17
2) Total number of properties (incl. nearby premises) inspected following notification	19	18
b) No. infested by (1) RATS	15	12
(2) MICE	4	6
3) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	18	18
b) No. infested by (1) RATS	13	5
(2) MICE	13	5



